GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3424
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
EFFORTS TO MAKE INDIA AN INVESTMENT DESTINATION
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether road, rail link and border outposts of India with most of its neighbouring countries are poor and they preclude any large scale trade and people to people links;

(b) if so, the details along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether a comprehensive plan to develop cross-border infrastructure has been undertaken by the Government as reported in the `Hindustan Times` dated December 7, 2004;

(d) if so, the strategies being adopted for the said purpose; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to give a fillip to effective border trade?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a-b) The Government pays considerable attention to the development of infrastructure in border areas, including road and rail linkages and border outposts with neighboring countries in order to foster border trade and people to people links. The Government reviews the status of infrastructure in border areas from time to time and takes appropriate steps for its improvement.

(c-e) Development of infrastructure in border areas is part of a comprehensive effort undertaken by the Government involving its various Ministries and agencies aimed at effective border management. This includes improving infrastructure links and streamlining border administration, which will contribute to an increase in trade and economic cooperation as well as people to people links.